

Goodwin's Weekly

Vol. 24

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, MAY 8, 1915

No 21

An Independent Paper Published Under
the Management of J. T. Goodwin ::

EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

Work of the American Relief Commission

THE magnitude of the work performed by the American relief commission since it was organized last October, is not half comprehended by the masses of the American people. It is a wonderful story. The English newspapers concede that the work has been and is magnificent; that "American hustle" saved the Belgian people from starvation. The Manchester Guardian says: "America made good where an ounce less of well directed 'hustle' might have cost a thousand lives, and that 'the record of the commission will be one of the most inspiring pages in American history.'"

As outlined by the Guardian the story of the commission is a record of swift and efficient organization for the execution of a gigantic work, when help from Germany or from the allies was impossible and the commission was obliged to rely upon private support.

When the first storms of the great war burst upon Europe they spent their mighty forces upon Belgium. The unexpected stop of Germany's onward march, the desperate resistance of the Belgians, the coming of the French to their support; the reeling to and fro of the contending forces, the destruction of fortresses and cities, the devastation made on all sides; that is history.

But suddenly it dawned upon friend and foe that 10,000,000 people in that distressed land were in imminent danger of starvation, and neither friend nor foe could help them.

Then the American commission of relief was hastily created.

Herbert Hoover, an American mining engineer, was elected chairman. He picked out an executive committee, mostly men of his own calling, and the work began. So imminent was the danger that the committee on its own credit bought £250,000 worth of food and rushed it to Belgium. It, moreover, chartered 120 steamships and by diplomacy secured for them immunity from attack and search. The Belgian railroads being monopolized by the German army, the commission surveyed the canals and arranged to send supplies by barges.

Its charter having been signed in the middle of October, the commission landed the first cargo of 3,500 tons of flour—on November first at Rotterdam for a day and a half—on November 1 at Rotterdam. From that day a constant stream of provisions has poured into Belgium at an expense of £1,500,000 a month. Distribution is managed by the original Belgian relief organizations and by voluntary workers headed by the American Rhodes scholars. Rations consisting of a small loaf, potatoes, salt, coffee and soup, are issued twice daily, the soup containing meat, several kinds of vegetables and crusts. Those who can afford it pay a trifling sum for food tickets; those

who cannot receive food as a right and not as charity. Detailed balance sheets are constantly issued and a complete card index system insures that all shall have their share and no more. As the Guardian expresses it, "a little group of men who have had no previous experience of relief work have tackled this as they would the biggest and most inspiring business proposition that could be put before them." The article in the Guardian says in conclusion:

"Already it is as though in the welter of the war a new state had arisen—a state to which the belligerents defer in the heat of their passion, whose heads talk with kings and commanders on equal terms, whose mercantile marine enjoys an immunity which even neutrals cannot command, and whose members have safe conduct and free passage where no others may go. It is a state whose territory is eternally secure in the hearts of a grateful people."

The American people have just cause for pride in the work of Mr. Hoover and his associates; just cause for thankfulness that it was possible such intervention could be devised and carried through.

But that came just when the harvests of Europe were being gathered, now with more desperation than ever the fighting is going on. Who will plant the crops for harvesting this year? And what is to prevent the desolation of Belgium from spreading over half of Europe in the next few months?

Our government has extended its good offices to try to bring around peace. From this distance it looks as though a second and sterner message should be sent, in direct words pointing out the imminence of starvation to millions, and in the name of humanity calling upon those warring powers to stop further destruction and listen to reason, lest famine and pestilence strike the weapons from their red hands, and turn the former center of civilization into a hell of anarchy, despair and death.

No Change in Men's Estimations

IT has come down the years that on one occasion the acuteness of James Buchanan was called to the attention of Daniel Webster, when Webster remarked: "Buchanan is a deft politician, but no statesman." That about the same time someone called Buchanan's attention to some masterful words of Webster and praised his statesmanship, to which Buchanan replied: "Webster is a statesman, but he knows no more about politics than a child."

So far as reputation is concerned, it will make no difference how the Barnes-Roosevelt case is decided. If Barnes wins he will still remain in public estimation a mere political boss. If Roosevelt wins, his reputation for always standing "for righteousness" when things go his way, will not be changed.

It will be clear that bad as the Colonel thought Barnes he had no reproaches for him until Barnes refused to accept his personal domination and opposed his plans of self-aggrandisement.

But the people who read and reason knew all this long ago.

They have known it ever since the Colonel on his return from Africa jumped into the New York campaign and changed what promised to be a decided Republican victory into a decided Republican defeat. If the Colonel was moved by anything in that campaign except personal vanity, egotism and ambition, people who read and reason when they read have never been able to see it, or to catch on to "the righteousness" which the Colonel stood for. The same thing was the more pronounced when backed by Perkins' money in 1912 the Colonel, denouncing the party that had given him so much of honor and emolument, started out to pack primaries with cheaply-bought ruff scuff cannaille and Democratic votes, got himself sent to Chicago and when there tried by a transparent trick to obtain control of the national convention and when beaten filled all the atmosphere with his laments and denunciations, and finally succeeded in electing Mr. Wilson president.

That history is perfectly well known and hence a rehash covering many days in court, of the methods of one class of New York politicians throws no new light of the character of either of the chief performers in that odorous drama. Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, some are like aeroplanes or Zeppelins; they rise majestically and soar for a good while, but after all their places above the earth are not due to inherent angelic qualities, but upon the amount of gasoline they have on board.

The University Mildew

THE University squabble has simmered down to silence. The inflammation having been reduced those interested are hoping that the sore that is left, to use a not very elegant term, will scab over if it does not heal and that the supuration will eventually cease, but the university is not what its best friends hoped it was six months ago. In lieu of stating the real facts in a manner so plain that all interested people could understand them, there has not been a plain honest statement of the trouble by either the regents or by those who have the everyday direction of the school. The impression made is that some people immediately interested are covering something up which they personally cherish, but which they know would be fiercely protested against were it generally known.

Whether this is political or religious, or a family affair, matters not. The trouble is that all these are charged in some quarters.

This means the beginning of dry rot upon an institution of learning. Continued, it would, in a brief time, make the university what is now and then seen in a forest, a tree with green leaves and spreading branches, but which some morning startles the forest by crashing to the earth, and then it is seen that its heart has been rotten and its strength gone for years.

We read frequently in the newspapers that this or that university has been left a mighty bequest by some man of wealth. When under its present